



Vol. XVI

MARCH, 1949

No. 7

BRYAN'S LAST MESSAGE

The Commoner Defends the Faith

As a member of the counsel of prosecution in the Scopes evolution case in Dayton, William Jennings Bryan had prepared an address in defense of Tennessee's law against the teaching of evolution in the public schools. This address was not delivered during the trial because arguments to the jury by counsel on both sides were dispensed with by agreement. Arrangements for publication of it were made by Mr. Bryan only a few hours before his death. The following excerpts have been chosen to appear in this memorial, birthday edition of Newsette.

May it Please the Court, and
Gentlemen of the Jury:

Demosthenes, the greatest of ancient orators, in his "Oration on the Crown," the most famous of his speeches, began by supplicating the favor of all the gods and goddesses of Greece. If, in a case which involved only his fame and fate, he felt justified in petitioning the heathen gods of his country, surely we, who deal with the momentous issues involved in this case, may well pray to the ruler of the Universe for wisdom to guide us in the performance of our several parts in this historical trial.

Let us now separate the issues from the misrepresentations, intentional or unintentional, that have obscured both the letter and the purpose of the law. This is not an interference with freedom of conscience. A teacher can think as he pleases and worship God as he likes, or refuse to worship God at all. He can believe in the Bible or discard it; he can accept Christ or reject Him. This law places no obligation or restraints upon him. And so with freedom of speech, he can, so long as he acts as an individual, say anything he likes on any subject. This law does not violate any right guaranteed by any constitution to any individual. It deals with the defendant, not as an individual, but as an employee, an official or public servant, paid by the state, and therefore under instructions from the state.

RIGHT OF STATE TO CONTROL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The right of the state to control the public schools is affirmed in the recent decision in the Oregon case, which declares that the state can direct what shall be taught and also forbid the teaching of anything "manifestly inimical to the public welfare." The above decision goes even farther and declares that the parent not only has the right to guard the religious welfare of the child, but is in duty bound to guard it. That decision fits this case exactly. The state had a right to pass this law, and the law represents the determination of the parents to guard the religious welfare of their children.

It need hardly be added that this law did not have its origin in bigotry. It is not trying to force any form of religion on anybody. The majority is not trying to establish a religion or to teach it—it is trying to protect itself from the effort of an insolent minority to force irreligion upon the children under the guise of teaching

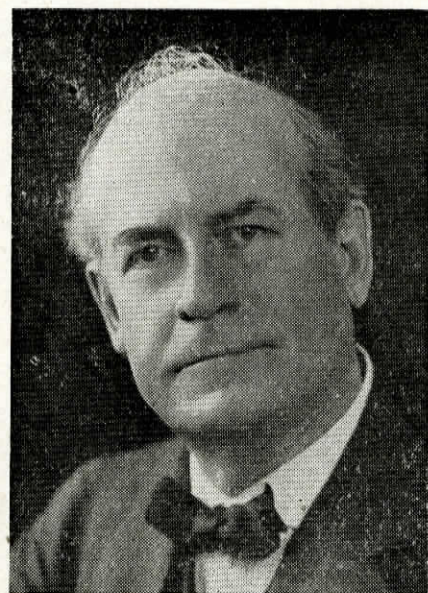
science. What right has a little irresponsible oligarchy of self-styled "intellectuals" to demand control of the schools of the United States, in which 25,000,000 children are being educated at an annual expense of nearly \$2,000,000,000?

Christians must, in every state of the Union, build their own colleges in which to teach Christianity; it is only simple justice that atheists, agnostics, and unbelievers should build their own colleges if they want their own religious views or attack the religious views of others.

DECLARES RELIGION NOT HOSTILE TO LEARNING

Religion is not hostile to learning. Christianity has been the greatest patron learning has ever had. But Christians know that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" now just as it has been in the past, and they therefore oppose the teaching of guesses that encourage godlessness among the students.

Continued on Page 2



March 19, 1860 — July 26, 1925

SCARLETS AND GOLDS SPLIT BASKETBALL HONORS

In the first official games of the season, the Scarlets and Golds divided the honors, the red ladies trouncing the golden 25-14. The golden men returned the compliment, however, in a thrilling 26-25 finish.

The second game found the Scarlets going home with both victories tucked under their arms, though a strengthened Gold team kept the ladies' score to a very close 17-15, and the fellows just did maintain what had at first promised to be an easy Scarlet victory. A basket made during the last ten seconds of play made the difference.

Total scores for the two sides for all events thus far this year show that the Golds are leading by fifteen points.

BRYAN'S LAST MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Neither does Tennessee undervalue the service rendered by science. The Christian men and women of Tennessee know how deeply mankind is indebted to science for benefits conferred by the discovery of the laws of nature and by the designing of machinery for the utilization of these laws. Give science a fact and it is not only invincible, but is of incalculable service to man. If one is entitled to draw from society in proportion to the service that he renders to society, who is able to estimate the reward earned by those who have given to us the use of steam, the use of electricity . . . ? Or, to come more closely to our home life, how shall we recompense those who gave us the sewing machine, the harvester, the threshing machine, the tractor, the automobile and the method now employed in making artificial ice? The department of medicine also opens an unlimited field for invaluable service. Typhoid and yellow fever are not feared as they once were. Diphtheria and pneumonia have been robbed of their terrors, and a high place on the scroll of fame still awaits the discoverer of remedies for arthritis, cancer, tuberculosis, and other dread diseases to which mankind is heir.

Christianity welcomes truth from whatever source it comes, and is not afraid that any real truth from any source can interfere with the divine truth that comes by inspiration from God Himself. It is not scientific truth to which Christians object, for true science is classified knowledge, and nothing therefore can be scientific unless it is true.

EVOLUTION NOT TRUTH—MERELY AN HYPOTHESIS

Evolution is not truth; it is merely an hypothesis—it is millions of guesses strung together. It had not been proven in the days of Darwin; he expressed astonishment that with two or three million species it had been impossible to trace any species to any other species. It had not been proven in the days of Huxley, and it has not been proven up to today. It is less than four years ago that Prof. Bateson came all the way from London to Canada to tell the American scientists that every effort to trace one species to another had failed—every one. He said he still had faith in evolution, but had doubts about the origin of species. But of what value is evolution if it cannot explain the origin of species? While many scientists accept evolution as if it were a fact, they all admit, when questioned, that no explanation has been found as to how one species developed into another.

MAN'S URGE COMES NOT FROM WITHIN, BUT FROM ABOVE

But while the wisest scientist cannot prove a pushing power, such as evolution is supposed to be, there is a

lifting power that any child can understand. The plants lift the mineral up into a higher world, and the animal lifts the plant up into a world still higher. So, it has been reasoned by analogy, man rises, not by a power within him, but only drawn upward by a higher power. There is a spiritual gravitation that draws all souls toward heaven, just as surely as there is a physical force that draws all matter on the surface of the earth towards the earth's center. Christ is our drawing power; He said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto Me," and His promise is being fulfilled daily all over the world.

EVOLUTION CASTS DOUBT UPON CREATION ITSELF

But it is not a laughing matter when one considers that evolution not only offers no suggestions as to a Creator but tends to put the creative act so far away as to cast doubt upon creation itself. And while it is shaking faith in God as a beginning, it is also creating doubt as to a heaven at the end of life. Evolutionists do not feel that it is incumbent upon them to show how life began or at what point in their long-drawn-out scheme of changing species man became endowed with hope and promise of immortal life. God may be a matter of indifference to the evolutionists and a life beyond may have no charm for them, but the mass of mankind will continue to worship their Creator and continue to find comfort in the promise of their Savior that He has gone to prepare a place for them. Christ has made of death a narrow, star-lit strip between the companionship of yesterday and the reunion of tomorrow; evolution strikes out the stars and deepens the gloom that enshrouds the tomb.

If the results of evolution were unimportant, one might require less proof in support of the hypothesis, but before accepting a new philosophy of life, built upon a materialistic foundation, we have reason to demand something more than guesses: "we may well suppose" is not a sufficient substitute for "Thus saith the Lord."

Do these evolutionists stop to think of the crime they commit when they take faith out of the hearts of men and women and lead them out into a starless night? Can the fathers and mothers of Tennessee be blamed for trying to protect their children from such a tragedy?

Shakespeare regards the robbing one of his good name as much more grave than the stealing of his purse. But we have a higher authority than Shakespeare to invoke in this connection. He who spake as never man spake, thus describes the crimes that are committed against the young: "It is impossible but that offenses will come; but woe unto him through whom they come. It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and be cast into the

sea, than that he should offend one of these little-ones."

Christ did not overdraw the picture. Who is able to set a price upon the life of a child—a child into whom a mother has poured her life and for whom a father has labored? What may a noble life mean to the child itself, to the parents, and to the world?

And it must be remembered that we can measure the effect on only that part of life which is spent on earth; we have no way of calculating the effect on that infinite circle of life of which existence here is but a small arc. The soul is immortal and religion deals with the soul; the logical effect of the evolutionary hypothesis is to undermine religion and thus affect the soul.

While not more than two per cent of our population are college graduates, these, because of enlarged powers, need a "heavenly vision" even more than those less learned, both for their own restraint and to assure society that their enlarged powers will be used for the benefit of society and not against the public welfare.

Evolution is deadening the spiritual life of a multitude of students. Christians do not desire less education, but they desire that religion shall be entwined with learning so that our boys and girls will return from college with hearts aflame with love of God and love of fellowmen, and prepare to lead in the altruistic work that the world so sorely needs. The cry in the business world, in the industrial world, in the professional world, in the political world—even in the religious world—is for consecrated talents, for ability plus a passion for service.

The Southeastern Christian Advocate of June 25, 1925, quotes five eminent college men of Great Britain as joining in an answer to the question, "Will civilization survive?"

"The greatest danger menacing our civilization is the abuse of the achievements of science. Mastery over the forces of nature has endowed the twentieth century man with a power which he is not fit to exercise. Unless the development of morality catches up with the development of technique, humanity is bound to destroy itself."

Can any Christian remain indifferent? Science needs religion to direct its energies and to inspire with lofty purpose those who employ the forces that are unloosened by science. Evolution is at war with religion because religion is supernatural; it is, therefore, the relentless foe of Christianity, which is a revealed religion.

Let us, then, hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Science is a magnificent material force, but it is not a teacher of morals. It can perfect machinery, but it adds no moral restraints to protect society from the misuse of the machine. It can also build gigantic intellectual ships, but it constructs no moral rudders for the control of storm-tossed human vessels. It not only fails to supply the spiritual element needed, but some of its unproven hypotheses rob the ship of its compass and thus endanger its cargo.

Continued on Page 3

Ten Years Ago

Ralph Toliver Being a letter from Bryan's first missionary.

Ten years ago last Sunday night I first arrived in China. With my arrival in Shanghai . . . , the first missionary recruit from Bryan University set foot on the soil of his adoption. These few days, as I have been thinking back . . . , I have realized again what a solemn thing it is—not only to be a messenger of the cross in a foreign land, but in my case to be the first of a long line that have gone to the far ends of the earth during these last ten years. Taking stock, I find myself doing the thing that Dr. Currens used to say he wished he had spent his life doing—training native leaders to do the work of evangelizing their own people. Except, if I remember it aright, he had as his ideal going for five years to one land, there training a group of young men, then on to the next for another similar period. This I have not done, for the simple reason that it has taken more than five years to learn enough Chinese to be able to teach anything to the Chinese. But here I have not only a handful of young men around me, but 88 fine young people from the length and breadth of the most populous land on earth, from most of the more important provinces, and representing a dozen or more denominations. You may be interested in knowing that this is rated as the second largest Protestant Seminary in China. And it is the largest seminary connected with the largest single mission organization working in the largest single mission land, the mission of course being the CIM.

Contrary to what is true in many Bible Schools and colleges in America, we have a preponderance of men, only one student in four being a woman. Some have gone through real hardship in getting here. One boy spent 14 days on a freight boat coming up from Hankow, a trip that I made by passenger vessel in half the time. He had no place to spend his time but standing around the open deck, and no place to sleep at night but to stretch out on the same deck, rain or no rain. After eating the sailor's meager fare for two weeks, he looked a skeleton on his arrival here. Another boy, coming through Shanghai during the recent effort at fixing prices (which resulted

MUSIC AT ITS WORST!



The Babo Sisters take over during the Valentine party. Dave Cook, Wayne Pontius, "Tex" Williams, Dan Firebaugh, Miss Halloin and Miss Mahr look on while Stella Eure, Cubie Bauer, Thelma Zeigler, and Alma Austin provide the fun.

in merchants closing their doors and refusing to sell) went for three days without anything to eat—and that in perhaps the largest city in the Far East. How the poor people there managed to keep body and soul together during the crisis, I do not know. Many of our students have not only come on faith, but they have left wife and children at home on faith, as well, trusting that God will provide for them. Since the opening of school, some students have seen in the papers news of the civil war rolling back and forth over their home places. But, in Chungking, still it is day and we must work before the night.

Continued from Page 2

SCIENCE HAS MADE WAR MORE TERRIBLE THAN EVER

In war, science has proven itself an evil genius; it has made war more terrible than it ever was before. Man used to be content to slaughter his fellowmen on a single plane—the earth's surface. Science has taught him to go down into the water and shoot up from below and to go up into the clouds and shoot down from above, thus making the battlefields three times as bloody as it was before; but science does not teach brotherly love. Science has made war so hellish that civilization was about to commit suicide; and now we are told that newly discovered instruments of destruction will make the cruelties of

Continued on Page 4

VALENTINE PARTY

Students and staff members enjoyed rather a hilarious time at the recent Valentine party, which included everything from locating your partner by way of matching broken hearts to the crowning of a king and queen.

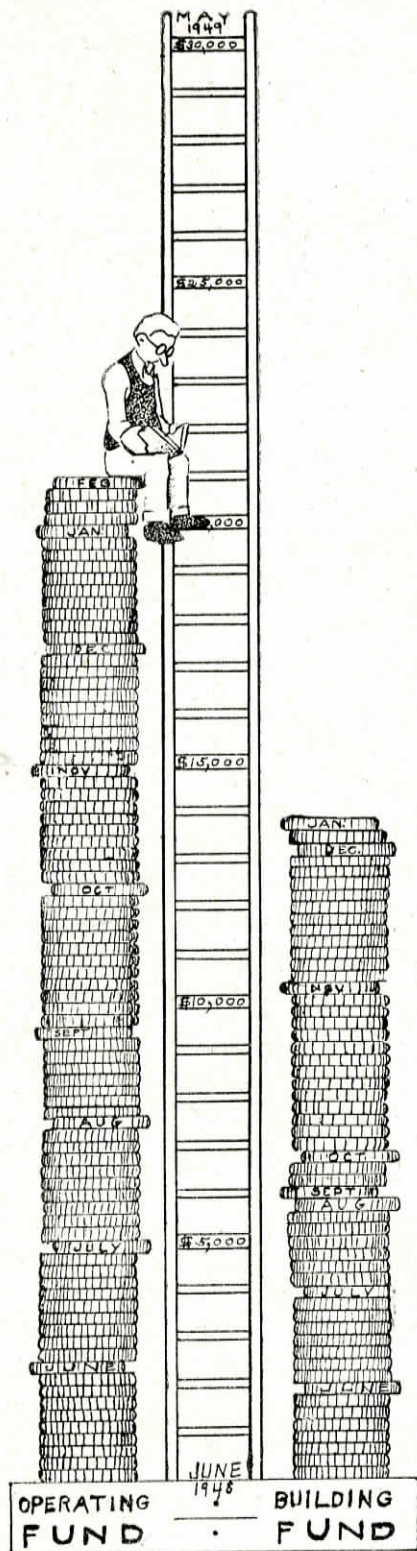
Of especial interest was the auctioning off of special partners for candy pellets, which were finally fed to the partner so secured. All purchases were made on the basis of descriptions written by the ladies themselves, some very much more leading than misleading, we feel quite sure.

Refreshments of delicious cake, punch, and ice cream decorated with a large red heart in the center followed a time of chorus singing and devotions. Bob Collitt, as master of ceremonies, kept things humming, and Mrs. Collitt presented a fascinatingly useful flannelgraph message for the devotional period.

★ M.S.M. Reminder

EVERYBODY

PRAY
WORK
GIVE



(Each coin represents \$250.00)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| MSM | \$ 471.27 |
| Building Fund (designated) | 36.00 |
| Other | 459.62 |
| Total Gifts for February.... | 966.89 |
| Gifts to Date (9 months)... | \$34,741.28 |

THE PRAYER CLOSET

"Brethren, pray for us." I Thess. 5:25
PRAISE:

1. A LETTER GRAM, mailed around the first of November, informed our friends of acute financial needs. Our financial embarrassment came as a result of construction expenditures far in excess of receipts for construction. We have turned the anticipated financial corner. Our most serious financial needs have been met. This is cause for great rejoicing. We thank God as well as the friends who helped with larger gifts, with loans, with annuity gifts, and with other restricted gifts.

2. Did you read in the February NEWSLETTE about the Lord's blessing on the Street Meetings? The Lord has blessed mightily in this work and in other C. S. A. work.

PRAYER:

1. Professor Garner Hoyt reports that Mrs. Hoyt is feeling better and is much encouraged. She has been in California with her parents since Christmas.

2. Mrs. Margaret McGowan, instructor in piano and organ, recently underwent a serious operation.

3. Mrs. Mary Stock, mother of Professor Paul Stock, assistant professor of voice, is recovering from a long illness.

Continued from Page 3

the late war seem trivial in comparison with the cruelties of wars that may come in the future. If civilization is to be saved from the wreckage threatened by intelligence not consecrated to love, it must be saved by the moral code of the meek and lowly Nazarine. His teachings, and His teachings alone, can solve the problems that vex the heart and perplex the world.

The world needs a Saviour more than it ever did before, and there is only one "Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." It is this Name that evolution degrades, for, carried to its logical conclusion, it robs Christ of the glory of a virgin birth, of the majesty of His deity and mission and of the triumph of His resurrection. It also disputes the doctrine of the atonement.

It is for the jury to determine whether this attack upon the Christian religion shall be permitted in the public schools of Tennessee by teachers employed by the state and paid out of the public treasury. This case is no longer local; the defendant ceases to play an important part. The case has assumed the proportions of

Christ Above All

Judson A. Rudd, LL.D.....Editor-in-Chief
D. W. Ryther.....Managing Editor
Lloyd E. Fish.....Business Manager

Published and Printed Monthly by
William Jennings Bryan University
Dayton, Tennessee

Entered as second-class matter, March 13, 1937, at the post office at Dayton, Tennessee, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

\$5,600 MARCH GIFT INCOME NEEDED

The operating budget for the 1948-49 fiscal year calls for a gift income of \$30,000. We now know that this is not a bit too much. All over this \$2,500 per month (including designated gifts), a total of \$13,810.39, has been deposited month by month in the Plant fund. We have needed every cent of this for completing improvements already started.

Because less than \$1,000 was received in gifts during February, we begin March more than \$1,500 behind in operating gifts. A total gift income of more than \$5,600 is needed in March to make up this amount and keep up our average surplus for the Plant Fund.

a battle-royal between unbelief that attempts to speak through so-called science and the defenders of the Christian faith, speaking through the legislators of Tennessee. It is again a choice between God and Baal; it is also a renewal of the issue in Pilate's court. In that historic trial—the greatest in history—force, impersonated by Pilate, occupied the throne. Behind it was the Roman government, mistress of the world, and behind the Roman government were the legions of Rome. Before Pilate stood Christ, the Apostle of Love. Force triumphed; they nailed Him to the tree and those who stood around mocked and jeered and said, "He is dead." But from that day the power of Caesar waned and the power of Christ increased. In a few centuries the Roman government was gone and its legions forgotten; while the crucified Lord has become the greatest fact in history and the growing figure of all time.

Again force and love meet face to face, and the question, "What shall I do with Jesus?" must be answered. A bloody, brutal doctrine—Evolution—demands, as the rabble did nineteen hundred years ago, that He be crucified. That cannot be the answer of this jury representing a Christian state and sworn to uphold the laws of Tennessee. Your answer will be heard throughout the world; it is eagerly awaited by a praying multitude. If the law is nullified, there will be rejoicing wherever God is repudiated, the Savior scoffed at, and the Bible ridiculed. Every unbeliever of every kind and degree will be happy. If, on the other hand, the law is upheld and the religion of the school children protected, millions of Christians will call you blessed and, with hearts full of gratitude to God, will sing again that grand old song of triumph:

"Faith of our fathers, living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word—

Faith of our fathers—holy faith: ..
We will be true to thee till death!"

NOTE—If sufficient of our friends desire a complete copy of Mr. Bryan's last message, it will be reprinted and sent to those requesting a copy. Address your request to Bryan University, Dayton, Tennessee.